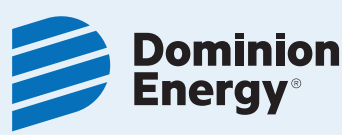


# 2018 Strong Men & Women in Virginia History

PRESENTED BY



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People of African descent have been a part of Virginia's—and America's—story since European colonization of the North American continent began. Yet the contributions of African Americans often have been ignored, obscured, or underappreciated by those who recorded history. In observance of Black History Month, the Library of Virginia and Dominion Energy honor seven distinguished Virginians, past and present, as ***Strong Men & Women in Virginia History*** for their important contributions to the state, the nation, or their professions.

These men and women offer powerful examples of individuals who refused to be defined by their circumstances. Their biographies are a testament to the determination and perseverance displayed by extraordinary people during challenging times. These individuals demonstrate how African Americans have actively campaigned through education and advocacy for better lives for themselves, their people, and all Americans. It is these many contributions that the ***Strong Men & Women in Virginia History*** program seeks to recognize and share.

To learn more about these remarkable men and women, all of whom have used their talents and creativity to push for equality and inclusion in American society, visit our website at [www.lva.virginia.gov/smw](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/smw).

## Dana Olden Baldwin

1881–1972 | **Martinsville**  
**PHYSICIAN & ENTREPRENEUR**

For many years, Dana Olden Baldwin (March 20, 1881–November 9, 1972) was Martinsville's only African-American physician. Bright and hardworking, he graduated from high school in North Carolina at age 16 and, after teaching school and working on a farm, earned his medical degree from Leonard Medical College of Shaw University in 1910. Licensed by the Virginia State Board of Medical Examiners that year, he established his practice in Martinsville. Baldwin volunteered for the Army Medical Reserve Corps when the United States entered World War I and was commissioned a first lieutenant, serving in France with the 317th Sanitary Train of the 92d Division.

Baldwin returned home after his honorable discharge in 1919 and acquired property around his medical practice to spur economic development within Martinsville's African-American community. He established several businesses, including brick-making and garment factories. He also opened Saint Mary's Hospital, where he treated anyone who needed medical attention. "Baldwin's Block," with its restaurants, hotel, barber shop, beauty parlor, dental practice, pharmacy, and theater, became the social and commercial hub for African Americans in the vicinity of Martinsville. Baldwin also operated the nearby Sandy Beach Resort and created the June German Ball, an annual social event and dance that hosted noted African-American entertainers, including Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and Chuck Berry. Although "Baldwin's Block" no longer stands, the city established the Dr. Dana O. Baldwin Memorial Park to honor his legacy.

## Edwin Bancroft Henderson

1883–1977 | **Falls Church**  
**BASKETBALL PIONEER & CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST**

Edwin Bancroft Henderson (November 24, 1883–February 3, 1977) earned his teaching certification from Miner Normal School (later the University of the District of Columbia). He furthered his studies at Howard University, Columbia University, and Harvard University, where he learned to play basketball while studying physical education. In 1907, he created a league for African-American basketball teams in Washington, D.C. Henderson pioneered physical education programs in Washington's segregated public schools. He improved local sports facilities, organized the first track meets for African-American high schools and colleges, and created athletic associations to foster a culture of athletic competition

in the black community. To raise awareness of talented African-American athletes, he published *The Negro in Sports* (1939; rev. ed. 1949).

Henderson lived in Fairfax County, where in 1915 he organized the Falls Church branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, its first rural chapter. He fought racial discrimination in local housing and law enforcement practices; battled segregation in transportation, schools, and other public facilities; and encouraged voter registration. During the 1950s, Henderson served as president of the NAACP Virginia state conference. While making basketball courts his classroom and NAACP work his vantage point for civil rights advocacy, Henderson was met with threatening letters and telephone calls, cross-burnings, and Ku Klux Klan visits. Throughout his life, thousands of Henderson's letters to the editor on civil rights issues were published in the *Washington Post*.

Remembered as the "Father of Black Basketball," Henderson was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2013.

## Marguerite Bailey Young

1928– | **Fredericksburg**  
**EDUCATOR & HEALTH CARE ADVOCATE**

After earning a bachelor's degree from Virginia State College (later Virginia State University), Accomack County native Marguerite Bailey Young continued her studies at Columbia University and the University of Virginia. She began teaching in Greensville County before relocating in 1957 to Fredericksburg, where she taught business classes at the segregated high school. Her skills and passion for education led to her promotion to principal in 1976 and later to her position as director of instruction for the city's schools. Dedicated throughout her 40-year career to providing a strong education to all students, Young secured grant funding for underprivileged schools through the federal Title I program, spearheaded the establishment of a community tutoring program, and helped implement a program to assist minority students with college application costs.

A champion for accessible health care, Young was a founding member of the Healthcare Assembly to assess medical needs in the community. She sat on the board of trustees for Mary Washington Hospital from 1988 to 2000 and helped establish its Community Service Fund (later the Community Benefit Fund) to support health care projects around Fredericksburg. She helped create programs that provide mobile health services in local school districts and access to medications with free prescriptions, and also directed the wellness center at Shiloh Baptist Church (Old Site). Young has received numerous accolades for her community activism, including the Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce's Prince B. Woodard Leadership Award for vision, integrity, and extraordinary service.

## Calvin Coolidge Green

1931–2011 | **New Kent**  
**CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST & EDUCATOR**

Calvin Coolidge Green (July 19, 1931–February 10, 2011) received a bachelor's degree in biology from Virginia State College (later Virginia State University) in 1956 and a master's degree from the Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina (later North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University) in 1965. He taught high school biology and chemistry in Richmond for more than 30 years. He also earned degrees in theology and pastoral counseling, and served as pastor to churches in the Richmond area and surrounding counties. Green served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, was promoted to colonel in the Army Medical Service Corps, and also served in the Army Reserve Chaplain Corps.

Ten years after the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* outlawing school segregation, Virginia continued to defy court orders to desegregate. As president of the New Kent County branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Green determined to force the issue where he lived and his three sons attended school. In 1965, he filed suit (in his youngest son's name) against New Kent County, which implemented a "freedom of choice" plan that required African-American students to petition the school board for permission to switch to the school for white students. The Supreme Court ruled in 1968 that the county's dual system was unconstitutional and that the school board had to devise a realistic plan to desegregate immediately. The decision in *Charles C. Green et al. v. County School Board of New Kent County* effectively forced the integration of schools in Virginia and nationwide.

## Mavis Claytor-Ford

1943– | **Salem**  
**NURSE & ADMINISTRATOR**

Mavis Claytor-Ford grew up on her family's farm in Franklin County, where her great-grandparents had lived in slavery. At the age of 16, she was responsible for her ailing grandmother's care, which led to her decision to become a nurse. Claytor-Ford began her training at Provident Hospital in Baltimore. After earning her licensed practical nursing certificate, she worked briefly as a surgical nurse in Roanoke, but desired more training. She was accepted into the University of Virginia's nursing program, but when she arrived on campus in 1968, the dormitory staff refused to allot her a room. With assistance from the nursing dean, Claytor-Ford secured housing and refused to let the setback deter her from success. She became the first African American to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing from the university when she graduated in 1970, and she went on to earn a master's degree in nursing in 1985.

Claytor-Ford was one of the first black professional nurses employed at the university's hospital, and she later enjoyed a successful career at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Salem. Focused on geriatric care, she encouraged pet therapy and participated in a study of the effects of light and sound stimuli on the behavior of Alzheimer's patients at the center. Her concern for patients' personal care led her to collaborate with a Virginia Tech project to test the accessibility of modular bathroom components. Claytor-Ford retired as the chief nurse for geriatrics and extended care after more than three decades at the Salem Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

## Warren Wesley Buck III

1946– | **Hampton**  
**PHYSICIST & EDUCATOR**

Warren Wesley Buck III grew up in Washington, D.C., and studied mathematics at Morgan State College (later Morgan State University). He enrolled at the College of William and Mary, where he received a master's degree in experimental and theoretical plasma physics (1970) and a doctorate degree in theoretical relativistic nuclear physics (1976). He joined the faculty of Hampton University in 1984. Buck was a prominent member of the intellectual team that built the U.S. Department of Energy's Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility (known as Jefferson Lab), in Newport News, where he also established a summer graduate studies program in nuclear physics. The founding director of the Nuclear/High Energy Physics Research Center of Excellence at Hampton, Buck was a major force in creating the school's Ph.D. program in physics, the first doctoral degree offered by the university.

In 1999, Buck became chancellor of the University of Washington–Bothell and oversaw its transition to a four-year institution. He later returned to teaching physics and in 2009 became director of the school's science and technology program. Buck has continued his research throughout his career and published articles in numerous academic journals. In 2007–2008, he served as co-chair of the Committee on New Opportunities in Solar System Exploration of NASA's New Frontiers Program. A talented watercolorist, Buck also explores the overlap between physics and the visual arts.

Buck has received numerous honors for his work and was named a fellow of the American Physical Society in 1998. The College of William and Mary awarded him an honorary degree in 2013, and he currently sits on its board of visitors.

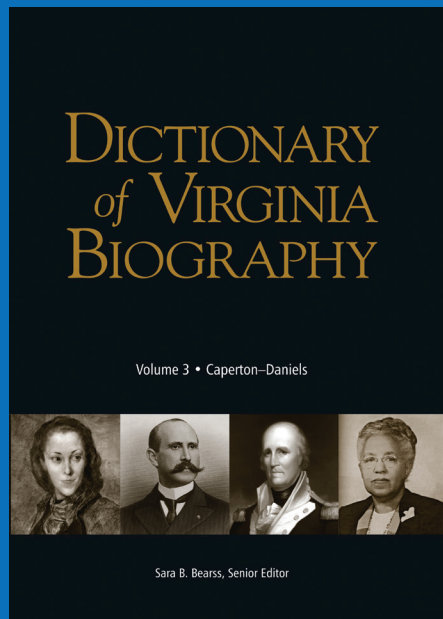
## Angela Edwards Roberts

1953– | **Richmond**  
**JUDGE & YOUTH ADVOCATE**

Angela Edwards Roberts grew up in Caroline County, where her parents taught her the importance of living up to her potential. She studied political science at Virginia Tech, earning a degree with honors in only three years. In 1980, she graduated from Emory University with a juris doctor degree and joined a private legal practice in Atlanta. After returning to Virginia, she became the first African-American woman to be an assistant commonwealth's attorney in Richmond and a staff attorney for the Virginia State Bar.

On February 22, 1990, the General Assembly elected Roberts a judge of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court in Richmond, making her the first African-American woman elected a judge in Virginia. She helped implement reforms to streamline court administration and improve case scheduling. Roberts worked with the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative to reduce the reliance on detention for juveniles awaiting trial, which led to the adoption of cost-effective and successful practices in the city and around the state. In 2000, Roberts established an annual Adoption Day ceremony to celebrate the final adoption of children in Richmond's foster care system. She served two terms as the chief judge of the court before retiring in 2016, and she continues to sit as a substitute judge.

Roberts has served on numerous state boards and commissions and has received many honors for her work on and off the bench. The YWCA named her one of its Outstanding Women in Law of Central Virginia in 2005, and the Old Dominion Bar Association honored her with its Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016.



Learn more about distinguished African Americans from Virginia in the *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* (Richmond: Library of Virginia, 1998–2006) and on the Library of Virginia's websites, [www.lva.virginia.gov](http://www.lva.virginia.gov) and [www.virginiamemory.com](http://www.virginiamemory.com). Instructional materials, classroom activities, and 2019 nomination forms are available at [www.lva.virginia.gov/smw](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/smw).

*A joint project of Dominion Energy and the Library of Virginia.*



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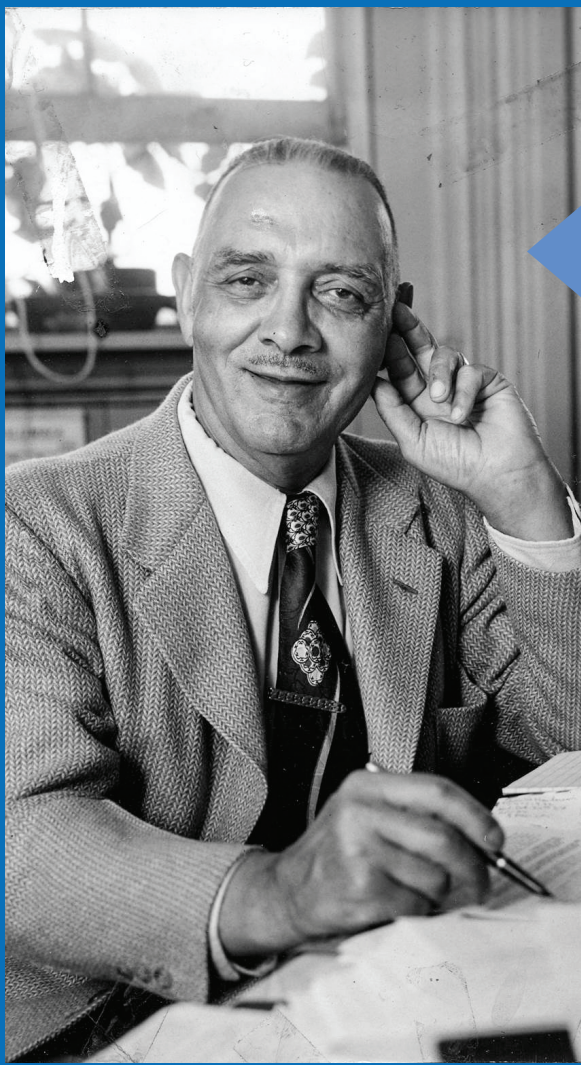


## Dana Olden Baldwin

**1881–1972**  
**Martinsville**

**PHYSICIAN & ENTREPRENEUR**

Dana O. Baldwin was a community physician whose entrepreneurial spirit created a thriving African-American business district in Martinsville.



## Edwin Bancroft Henderson

**1883–1977**  
**Falls Church**

**BASKETBALL PIONEER & CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST**

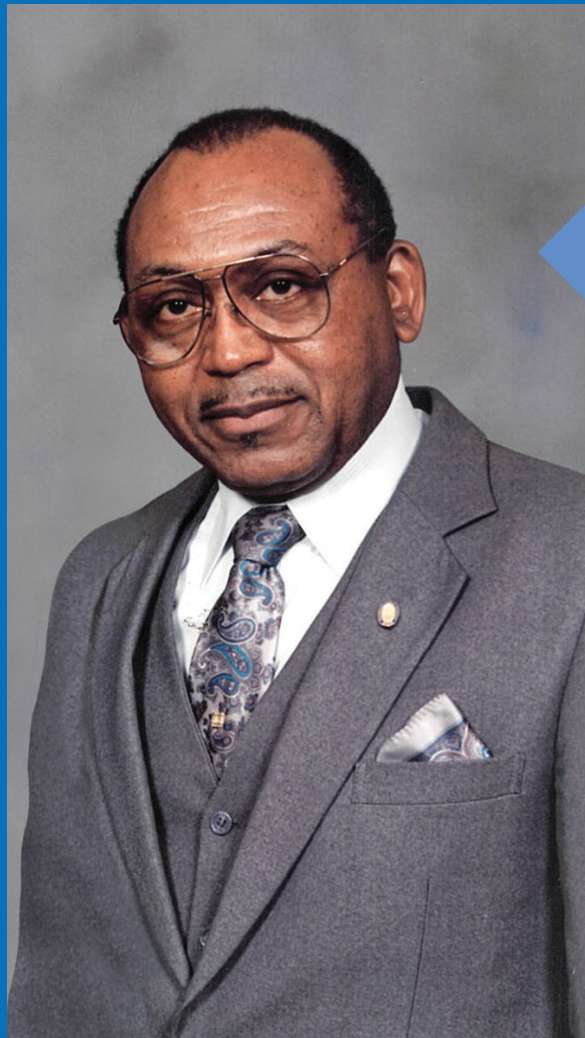
Educator, activist, and basketball pioneer Edwin B. Henderson dedicated his life to serving the African-American community through sports in education and fighting racial discrimination.

## Marguerite Bailey Young

**1928–**  
**Fredericksburg**

**EDUCATOR & HEALTH CARE ADVOCATE**

Marguerite B. Young has dedicated her life to education, community service, and accessible health care.



## Calvin Coolidge Green

**1931–2011**  
**New Kent**

**CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST & EDUCATOR**

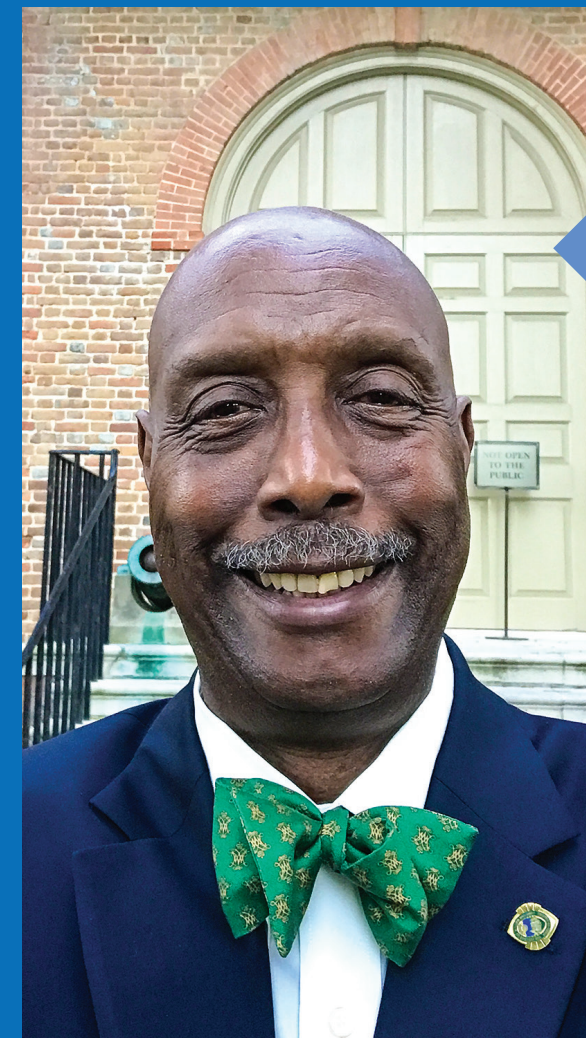
A schoolteacher and military veteran, Calvin C. Green filed a lawsuit in 1965 to compel New Kent County to desegregate its public schools.

## Mavis Claytor-Ford

**1943–**  
**Salem**

**NURSE & ADMINISTRATOR**

The first African American to earn a nursing degree from the University of Virginia, Mavis Claytor-Ford focused on geriatric care during her 30-year career at the Salem Veterans Affairs Medical Center.



## Warren Wesley Buck III

**1946–**  
**Hampton**

**PHYSICIST & EDUCATOR**

Nationally recognized physicist Warren Wesley Buck III helped create Hampton University's doctoral program in physics and works to attract a diverse student population to the field.

## Angela Edwards Roberts

**1953–**  
**Richmond**

**JUDGE & YOUTH ADVOCATE**

As a judge in Richmond's Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, Angela E. Roberts has been a forceful advocate for vulnerable youth and families within the criminal justice system.



1. Dana Olden Baldwin
2. Edwin Bancroft Henderson
3. Marguerite Bailey Young
4. Calvin Coolidge Green
5. Mavis Claytor-Ford
6. Warren Wesley Buck III
7. Angela Edwards Roberts

# 2018 Strong Men & Women in Virginia History

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